



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 November 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
19 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy says there is no truth to press stories that General Thieu has snubbed Ky's new cabinet appointees.

Thieu in fact did meet the new ministers [redacted]

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[redacted] Thieu and Ky had an extended--and apparently very friendly--conference yesterday. [redacted]

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2. North Vietnam

Low-level photography confirms the presence of two North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile sites within ten miles of the Demilitarized Zone; one is occupied.

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3. North Vietnam

Washington Post correspondent Joseph Kraft has been having talks this week both with Hanoi's ambassador to Prague and with the chief of the Liberation Front's mission there. He got the typically tough response. These are some of the observations:

--the North Vietnamese leaders see the US elections as routine and are not inclined to accept them as a barometer of possible policy changes;

--there seems to have been some disagreement among the hierarchy in Hanoi over military tactics, with older elements sticking with worn-out ideas in use since the war with the French;

--the Liberation Front does not see any advantages in setting up a provisional government at this time.

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4. Ecuador

The life expectancy of the new government of provisional president Otto Arosemena Gomez may be pathetically short.

The coalition that brought Arosemena to power only three days ago shows signs of disintegrating, and the opposition is growing stronger.

If the politicians don't act, the soldiers may. Military leaders are put out by vitriolic attacks on the armed forces now being voiced in the assembly

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5. Indonesia

Suharto has taken another major step toward consolidating his power by signing a decree enabling him to fill the parliamentary seats vacated by Communists with his own supporters.

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6. Rhodesia

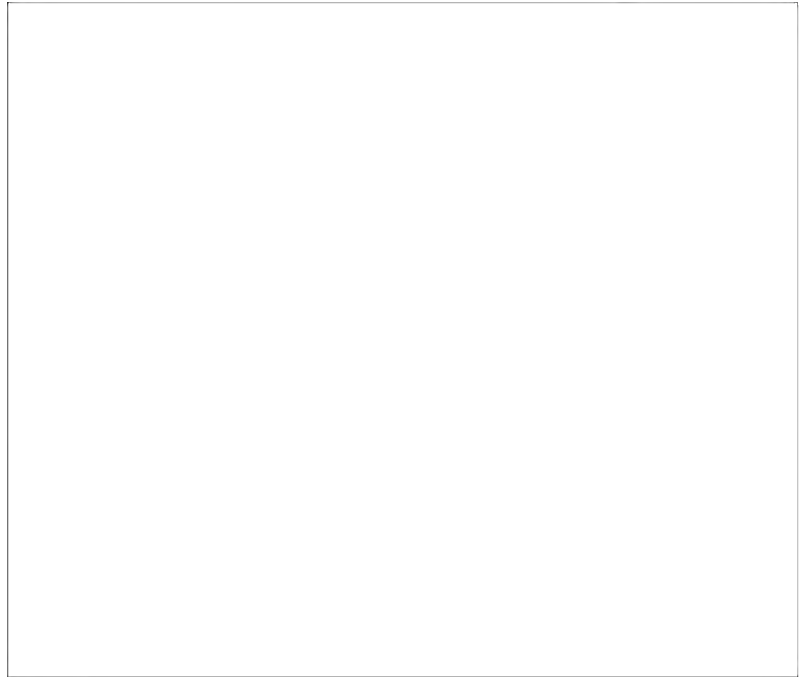
The British High Commissioner in Salisbury believes a final break between Britain and Rhodesia is likely before mid-December. The question will probably be raised in the House of Commons next week.

Commonwealth Secretary Bowden may make a last-ditch visit to Salisbury to pin the blame clearly on the Rhodesian regime.

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7. Haiti

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